

## Chorus Audition Guidelines

### How to apply:

To apply for the chorus program, applicants will prepare an audition consisting of **three components** listed below. Each audition location will have a warm-up space available for applicants to use prior to their audition. Pianos may not always be available in each warm-up location.

1) Unaccompanied Solo Piece

*America the Beautiful* **OR** *O Danny Boy*

2) Choral Selection

*I Don' Feel No Ways Tired* arr. Stacy Gibbs

3) Aural Skills Exercises

### Unaccompanied Solo Piece:

Sing your choice of either songs listed below. You must sing your selected song as written on the sheet music provided, but the music and words do not have to be memorized. OAI will provide a copy of the sheet music or you may print it beforehand to bring to your audition.

**OPTION A: *America the Beautiful***

TEMPO: Quarter note = 75 - 90 bpm (Set your metronome at a tempo between 75 and 90; each click represents one quarter note.)

**OPTION B: *O Danny Boy***

TEMPO: Quarter note = 50 - 65 bpm (Set your metronome at a tempo between 50 and 65; each click represents one quarter note.)

While you are encouraged to practice your piece with a metronome in advance, electronic devices (including cell phones and metronomes) are not permitted during the audition.

The beginning pitch will be provided for you at the audition, and you will sing unaccompanied (a cappella).

Vocal embellishments, inaccurate tempos, or otherwise not singing the music as written will lower your score. All music and starting pitch audio files are available in the Dropbox folder linked below.

### Choral Selection:

Perform the selection from *I Don' Feel No Ways Tired* for your voice part with the provided backing track. Applicants may sing any of the voice parts, but must state which part they are singing and sing the same part for the whole selection. The music and words do not have to be memorized.



### Aural Skills Exercises:

Applicants will be asked to perform a series of short aural skills exercises to gauge their ability to learn music quickly and effectively. The first few exercises will require applicants to listen to a series of pitches (no more than 6-7) and sing those pitches back from memory. For the final exercise, applicants will be asked to sing a short excerpt from sight (no more than 6-8 measures).

[Click here to access all sheet music, audio files, and aural skills sample exercises.](#)

### Audition Tips:

**Feel free to wear casual/comfortable attire.** Since auditions are blind and will be audio recorded for scoring at a later date, you will not be interacting with judges at your audition.

**Practice the aural skills portion of the audition.** As with any other part of the audition, practicing this skill is vital to a successful audition! Below are some resources and tips you can use to help you prepare.

- Ask your choral director or other music instructor to play short melodies (4-7 pitches) for you to sing back and give you new pieces of music to read from sight. They can help you learn what to listen for and make sure that you're singing back melodies correctly.
- Try singing back melodies you hear on the radio, television, or even melodies you hear at your school. Start with small fragments and try to gradually sing back longer and longer sections of melody.
- Practice visually identifying and singing different intervals to help recognize those when singing music from sight.
- Learn to identify and sing common musical elements like scales, intervals, and basic rhythms. Recognizing these patterns can help you sing music from sight and remember longer fragments of melody.

### Judging Criteria:

*Please note: Auditions for all disciplines are as blind as possible, meaning that judges will not have applicants' names, ages, hometowns, etc.*

**Unaccompanied Solo Piece – 40%**

**Choral Selection – 40%**

**Aural Skills Exercises – 20%**

[Read general information about our adjudication procedures here.](#)